

# **WORKSOURCE LOCATES STAFF AT CLARK COLLEGE: SWWDC AND CLARK COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP BRINGS ENHANCED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES TO STUDENTS**

News Release from **SW Wash Workforce Development Council**

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Vancouver, WA (June 25, 2015) - In a cooperative effort to bring enhanced employment services, access to training funds and job openings to students, the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC) and Clark College have entered into an agreement to have a WorkSource employee on-site at the college.

In May, Clark College became a WorkSource Connection Site, providing office space in its Career Services Center for a WorkSource staff member to be on-hand at the college full-time.

"Clark College and WorkSource serve the same people; individuals seeking training and education to obtain living wage jobs," said Jeanne Bennett, SWWDC's CEO. "By collaborating, aligning our services and making them available on campus, we ensure more students can access and benefit from WorkSource programs. Additionally, the WorkSource Business Services team is always looking for the best talent to match with open positions. Clark College is a great source of talent and they have a strong Career Services Office."

Having WorkSource's employment services at the college will enable both organizations to leverage resources to bring services to people who need them where they are already receiving other services. Students will benefit from WorkSource's deep knowledge of business needs, job openings and changing training requirements.

By collaborating, SWWDC and Clark College hope to increase opportunities for students to obtain no-cost training and access to WorkSource services while also streamlining the process of connecting employers with job candidates who are qualified and ready to work.

Students visiting WorkSource at Clark College will have an opportunity to:

1. Receive career and training guidance to help them find and obtain jobs
2. Learn about job openings and internships that WorkSource is helping local employers fill
3. Apply for industry-recognized training programs and, if eligible, for financial assistance
4. Create employment plans aligned with their educational plans
5. Research labor market data to learn about demand for the jobs they're considering
6. Develop job search techniques, including resume writing and interview skills
7. Enroll in Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs and/or other no-cost training or education programs through WorkSource

"As we prepare students for entry into the workforce, having WorkSource located here in Career Services will enable us to connect more students to funding resources to help them pay for additional training," said Edie Blakely, Clark College's Director of Career Services. "We're

excited about the additional opportunities this will provide for our students and employers."

The WorkSource office at Clark College is open Monday and Tuesday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and is located in Career Services in the Penguin Union Building, Room 002.

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Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC), a nonprofit organization founded in 2002, contributes to regional economic growth by providing investments and resources to improve the skills and education of the workforce in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties. SWWDC helps businesses find and hire the employees they need and provides people the skills, education and training to find work or advance in their careers. SWWDC partners with employers, community colleges and universities, labor groups, government and economic development agencies, high schools and community organizations. Learn more at [www.swwdc.org](http://www.swwdc.org).

WorkSource is a partnership of state agencies, local service providers, colleges and community organizations that provide free employment and training services to job seekers and employers. WorkSource assists employers to recruit and screen for qualified applicants, provide wage reimbursement opportunities through on-the-job trainings, and supply cost-savings information on employment tax credits. WorkSource serves more than 1,000 jobseekers and 200 businesses each month. For more information, visit [www.go2worksource.com](http://www.go2worksource.com).

Clark College, located in Vancouver's Central Park and serving up to 16,000 students per quarter, Clark College is Washington State's largest single-campus, for-credit community college. Career Services fosters student achievement and supports the success of our community members through career and education planning, place-based learning, job search preparation and partnerships with local employers. Visit [www.clark.edu](http://www.clark.edu).

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